legal rights on land and other traditional forest rights. This Ministry has prepared a draft "The Scheduled Tribes (Recognition of Forest Rights) Bill, 2005," to provide a legislative frame for recognition of the aforementioned rights, in consultation with the concerned Ministries, including the Ministry of Law & Justice.

The proposed Bill seeks to recognize such rights on land, minor forest produce, etc. for bona fide livelihood needs of the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes. The Bill was posted on the website of the Ministry seeking comments of the public and all stakeholdes till 10.7.05. The proposed Bill is still a tentative draft Bill and to be finalized as per the established procedure taking views and comments received from the stakeholders into consideration. No time frame can be indicated at this stage.

Development of Forest Villages

83. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to materialize the policy 'Development of Forest Villages' as envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of such villages where, development projects have already been completed, State-wise; and

(c) whether any time frame has been stipulated?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R.KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) It has been decided to implement development schemes in all about 3000 forests villages in the Tenth Plan period, in a phased manner at an average cost of Rs. 15 lakh per forest village. The amount will be spent for implementation of infrastructure and income generating activities like irrigation, safe drinking water, health care, primary education, approach roads. In the first phase 5 States namely Assam, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal are to be covered. The proposals will be considerd by the Multi Disciplinary Project Appraisal Committee during 2005-06, for the first time.

The Planning Commission has made and allocation of Rs. 230 crores for development of forest villages under SCA to TSP during 2005-06.